

Professional and Managerial Branch  
Cultural Group  
Zoo Series

ZOO ANIMAL CURATOR

05/90

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:**

Under direction, is responsible for the general operation, maintenance, design and remodeling of Zoo's exhibits, displays and habitats; plans, organizes, administers and supervises animal care; performs related duties as required.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

Plans, supervises, and implements programs for the care, handling and breeding of exotic zoo animals; enforces directives to insure good health and protection of animal collections; makes recommendations and supervises the formulation of animal diets; supervises the feeding of animals to assure proper diets and care; observes animals for abnormal behavior, evidence of illness or injury, and takes appropriate action; makes arrangements for animal shipments.

Prepares recommendations and plans for animal displays and habitats; assures exhibit areas are properly cleaned and maintained; assures display of flora is properly maintained.

Monitors the environments of animals including freshwater and marine aquariums; plans and coordinates maintenance of aquariums, equipment and components.

Assigns, coordinates, reviews, evaluates and supervises the work of assigned personnel; assists in the preparation and control of budget; reviews the preparation of work schedules; prepares and submits reports as required; requisitions equipment, materials and supplies; supervises maintenance of zoo animal records; conducts tours and gives lectures.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Training and Experience: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, Zoology, Wildlife Science, or related field and four years experience working with public exhibits of diversified exotic animals and aquatic species, including two years in a supervisory capacity; or, an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Considerable knowledge of the practices and techniques used in the handling and care of exotic animals; considerable knowledge of diseases common to animals; considerable knowledge of the dietary requirements for zoo animals; considerable knowledge of the care and maintenance of animal habitats and equipment; considerable knowledge of the environmental factors necessary to maintain animals, such as food, temperature, ph, oxygen, water salinity, and compatibility of species; good knowledge of principles and practices of zoo operations; good knowledge of animal housing, exhibit, environment and ecology; good knowledge of the maintenance and care of aquariums, animal areas, and zoo equipment; good knowledge of safe working practices and procedures and zoo public safety standards; good knowledge of supervisory practices and procedures.

Ability to determine dietary needs for terrestrial and aquatic animals; ability to detect and identify abnormalities and changes in behavior in aquatic and other zoo animals and take appropriate action; ability to enforce safety rules and regulations, standards of conduct and work attendance; ability to express oneself clearly and concisely, orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with fellow employees, Zoological Society members, volunteers and the general public; ability to prepare and maintain reports and records.

Skill in handling and restraining zoo animals; Skill in apprehending and confining animals.

Physical Requirements: Must handle and restrain zoo animals; exposure to poisonous and aggressive animals; intermittent exposure to unpleasant working conditions; mobility within the various environmental surroundings; lift and carry heavy objects (up to 50 pounds); subject to call during off-duty hours; operation of a motor vehicle through city traffic.

Additional Requirements: Works odd hours and weekends.

Licenses and Certificates: Texas Class "C" Driver's license or equivalent license issued by another state.

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Director of Personnel

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Department Head